

Message Text

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TAGS: EFIS, DA, PLOS

STATE PASS OFA/OES; USDOC PASS C. BLONDON, NATIONAL
MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE.

GENEVA FOR US LOS DELEGATION

SUBJECT: CESSATION OF DANISH FISHING NORTH SEA AND
SKAGERRAK HERRING FOR REMAINDER OF 1974/75
QUOTA YEAR.

REF: COPENHAGEN A-130 JUL 24, 1974.

1. DANISH FISHERMEN HAVE AGREED TO DISCONTINUE TAKING
NORTH SEA AND SKAGERRAK HERRING FOR REDUCTION PURPOSE
FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 1974/75 QUOTA YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 1975. THE FISHERIES MINISTRY IS ISSUING
REGULATIONS ON THE DISCONTINUANCE OF THE REDUCTION
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FISHERY; HOWEVER, FISHERMEN WILL BE PERMITTED TO

TAKE UP TO 6,000 METRIC TONS OF HERRING FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

2. UNDER NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION REGULATIONS APPROVED LAST YEAR, THE DANISH ALLOCATION OF THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH FOR HERRING IN THE NORTH SEA AND SKAGERRAK WAS SET AT 167,000 METRIC TONS FOR JULY 1, 1974 TO JUNE 30, 1975. DANISH FISHERMEN HAVE TAKEN NEARLY 90,000 TONS TO DATE, SLIGHTLY MORE THAN HALF THEIR ALLOCATION.

3. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT DANISH FISHERMEN, WHO HAD BEEN STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THEIR GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE 167,000 METRIC TONS AS BEING TOO LOW, SHOULD ACCEPT A CESSATION OF THE REDUCTION FISHERY. ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES, THE FISHERMEN CHANGED THEIR MINDS BECAUSE HERRING FISHING HAS BEEN POOR AND BECAUSE NEW SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS INDICATE CONSIDERABLY LOWER HERRING STOCKS THAN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED. IT WAS ALSO SAID THAT THE FISHERMEN WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATE OF THE STOCKS AND HOPED THAT THE GESTURE WOULD NOT BE LOST ON THE NEAFC COMMISSION WHEN NEXT YEAR'S HERRING TAC AND COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS ARE DECIDED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 21-27..

4. EMBASSY COMMENT. THE EASE WITH WHICH THE USUALLY OBSTREPEROUS DANISH FISHERMEN AGREED TO THE CESSATION MAY ALSO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FACT THAT MOST REDUCTION FISH VESSELS ARE REPORTEDLY IN PORT BECAUSE PRICES RECEIVED FOR REDUCTION FISH HAVE DROPPED SHARPLY AS A RESULT OF VERY LOW PRICES FOR FISH MEAL AND OIL.
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